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Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

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Sixty-third year

Identical letters dated 9 August 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the texts of the Appeals of the Parliament of Georgia to the population residing in the territory of the former autonomous district of South Ossetia and to the international community on 8 August 2008 (see annexes I and II).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annexes could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 16, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Irakli **Alasania**
Permanent Representative

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Annex I to the identical letters dated 9 August 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Appeal of the Parliament of Georgia to the population residing in the territory of the former autonomous district of South Ossetia

8 August 2008

Despite the systematic efforts of the Georgian authorities, by means of dialogue and negotiations, to create conditions for the peaceful settlement of the conflict, the separatist regime of Kokoiti and its subordinate illegal armed formations purposefully were trying to escalate and increase the tension of the situation. Their recently realized actions shall be definitely assessed as military aggression against the Georgian State and, first of all, against the peaceful population residing in the territory of the former autonomous district of South Ossetia. The illegal armed formations opened fire on the peaceful population and, despite the fact that for the sake of maintenance of peace the Georgian authorities were refraining from opening fire in response, they continued the terrorization of the peaceful population and mass bombings.

On the basis of the above-mentioned, the Georgian authorities have been forced to take all measures for the protection of the peaceful population in the region, cleaning the territory of the illegal armed formations and the creation of necessary conditions for peace, stability and development.

The Parliament of Georgia reiterates the firm will of the Georgian authorities to build a unified, democratic State, where the rights and freedoms of all persons will be guaranteed, regardless of their ethnic origin.

The Parliament of Georgia appeals to the ethnic Ossetian citizens of the region and once more confirms that in the unified Georgian State the full spectrum of their rights and freedoms will be guaranteed, their identity and development will be safeguarded in the entire country and they will have all the necessary conditions for the realization of their cultural, economic, social and political rights.

The Parliament of Georgia appeals to the population of the region to keep calm and to refrain from participation in the military activities inspired by the illegal armed formations.

The Parliament of Georgia expresses the belief that in the nearest future peace will be restored in the region and all the conditions for peace, development, stability and dignified life will be created in the territory of the former autonomous district of South Ossetia.

Annex II to the identical letters dated 9 August 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Appeal of the Parliament of Georgia to the international community

8 August 2008

Despite the systematic efforts of the Georgian authorities, by means of dialogue and negotiations, to create conditions for the peaceful settlement of the conflict in the former autonomous district of South Ossetia, the Tskhinvali separatist regime and illegal armed formations subordinate to it were purposefully trying to escalate and charge the situation. Their recently committed actions shall be definitely assessed as armed aggression against the Georgian State and, first of all, against the population residing in the territory of the former autonomous district of South Ossetia. The illegal armed formations opened fire on the peaceful population and, in spite of the fact that for the sake of maintenance of peace, the Georgian authorities refrained from opening fire in response, they continued the terrorization of the peaceful population and mass bombings.

On the basis of the above-mentioned, the Georgian authorities have been forced to take all measures for the protection of the peaceful population in the region, cleaning the territory of illegal formations and the creation of necessary conditions for peace, stability and development.

The situation is complicated by the circumstance that the de facto "Government" of South Ossetia is actually composed of officials, sent from Russia, who to date are the active employees of the Russian power bodies. They do not represent the interests of the Ossetian population of the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia and they had never lived in the region before their assignment to their positions. The Georgian authorities have several times appealed to the Russian authorities to take these people back from the region, which would have been a serious precondition for the normalization of the situation.

Unfortunately, instead of bringing peace to the conflict zone, Russia carries out the mobilization of illegal armed formations (so-called "volunteers"), giving out to them armaments and heavy military equipment, and their transfer to the conflict region through the Rocki Tunnel.

The Ministry of Defence of Russia also participates in the aggression against Georgia. On 8 August Russian military aviation several times violated the airspace of Georgia and attacked settlements in the Kareli, Gori, Marneuli and Tskhinvali districts and suburbs of Tbilisi. At the same time, the places selected as targets for air bombing have been especially those where there are dense gatherings of the peaceful population — namely, the market of the city of Gori and the stadium.

It is unacceptable and cynical on the side of Russian authorities to justify the military aggression on the pretext of protection of the citizens of Russia in Georgia. The history of Europe very well remembers the results of such policies, when in the 1930s the military occupation of sovereign Czechoslovakia by the Nazi regime

happened with the motivation of protection of the interests of an ethnic group residing in one of the regions of that country.

In such conditions, the Parliament of Georgia considers that the country is in the circumstances of undeclared war from the side of the Russian Federation and it is entitled, in accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, to take all measures to secure the sovereignty and protection of the security of the peaceful population.

At the same time, the Parliament of Georgia reiterates the firm will of the Georgian authorities to settle all the problems by means of dialogue and to build a unified, democratic State, where the rights and freedoms of all persons, regardless of their ethnic origin, will be safeguarded.

The Parliament of Georgia calls on the parliaments of partner countries, the international community and the world democratic community to make all efforts so as to stop the broad-scale military aggression of Russia against Georgia, to defuse the situation in the Tskhinvali region and to start the peaceful settlement process of the conflict with the participation of international, unbiased mediators.